



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

The Honorable Michael A. Durso
President
Montgomery County Board of Education
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear President Durso:

The Commission on Child Care (CCC) advises the County Executive and County Council on the development, implementation, and effectiveness of government policies, programs, and services that enhance community support for quality, affordable and accessible child care. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the tentatively approved revisions to Board Policy IEA, *Framework and Structure of Early Childhood and Elementary Education*.

The CCC strongly supports the updates to this document and the recognition that high quality, developmentally appropriate, challenging, and comprehensive early childhood and elementary programs are essential to promoting the intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth in children. For clarity throughout the document, it may be helpful to define and distinguish between child care centers and Family Child Care.

In support of the Board's commitment to "effectively utilizing county, state, and federal resources, along with community partners, to establish a continuum of essential services needed by young children and their families," the CCC respectfully requests the Board review and revise the proposed change to Section B, Line 134. The community child care partners referenced above are a critical component of the network leveraged to provide high quality early childhood experiences. As proposed, the document asserts that certified rather than high quality staff and leadership are necessary to meet the needs of early childhood and elementary students. We know that today's workforce cannot meet that requirement and that the certification requirement will become a barrier to entry for many child care educators.

Furthermore, if a Universal PreK (UPK) program is a future goal of MCPS, it is understood that a mixed delivery system will be required to accommodate the number of students. The requirement for a certified teacher as the standard for meeting early childhood instruction will prevent child care centers from participating in a mixed delivery UPK system due to the shortfall of certified child care teachers and inequity in pay between public school teachers and child care educators. At a minimum, the certification requirement for community child care programs will mean an increase in costs that will most certainly be borne by parents.

Department of Health and Human Services

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Michael A. Durso, President
February 28, 2017
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Thank you for your time, service and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Smith, Chair